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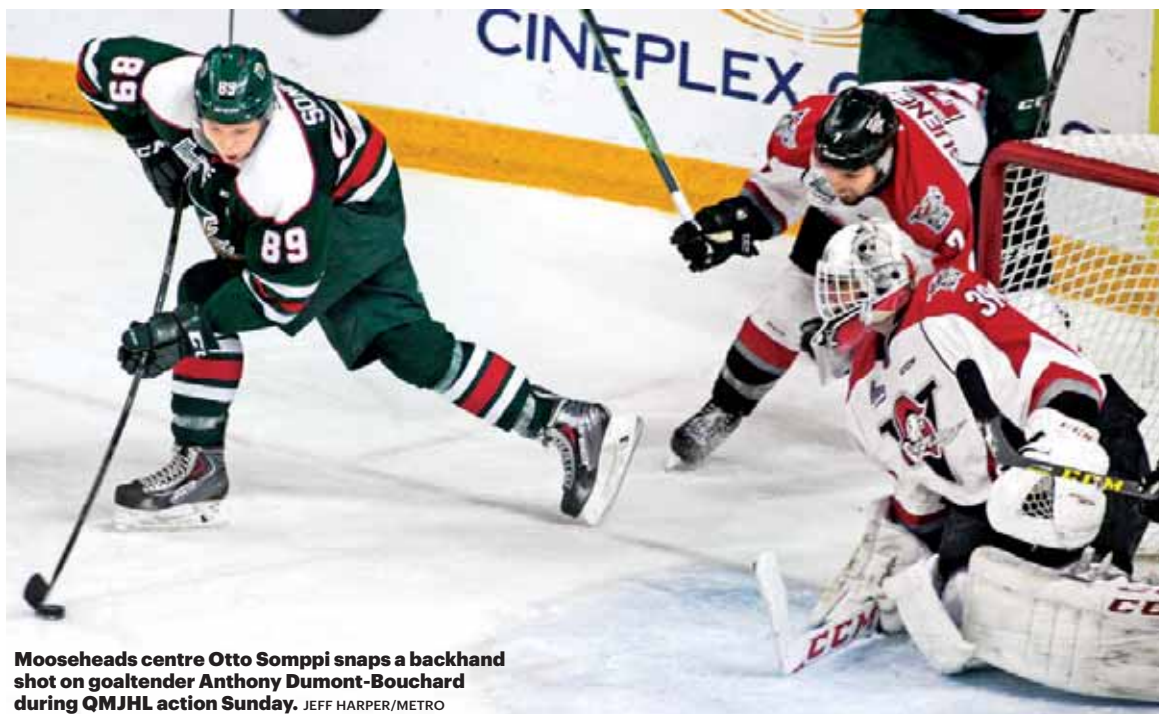
# Halifax metro

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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015

High 1°C/Low 0°C Oh, snow!



Mooseheads centre Otto Somppi snaps a backhand shot on goaltender Anthony Dumont-Bouchard during QMJHL action Sunday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Herd splits home games

Mooseheads follow Friday night win at Scotiabank Centre with loss to Drummondville on Sunday. Coverage, **metroSPORTS**

## More wind than worry

WEATHER

### First storm of the winter may spare Halifax, says forecast



Zane Woodford  
Metro | Halifax

Halifax will see only a "dusting" of snow, along with a full day of rain, in the first storm of the winter.

Environment Canada has issued a special weather statement across the province ahead of a storm coming Monday night.

"For Halifax, and the surrounding area, we probably don't anticipate much in the way of coverage on the ground if there is any snow," Environment Canada forecaster Jean-Marc Couturier said Sunday.

Couturier said light snow would begin to fall Monday afternoon, but would quickly change to rain, which is forecast to continue into Tuesday afternoon, when the city could get another dusting.

Northern parts of the province could see up to 10 centimetres of accumulated snow, along with ice pellets and freezing rain, Couturier said, but he's not looking at "too much in the way of accumulation for the capital city."

## 50 km/h

Environment Canada's special weather statement also forecasts "strong easterly winds" across Nova Scotia, with gusts up to 50 km/h in Halifax overnight into Tuesday, and says "higher than normal water levels are possible" on the coast Tuesday night.



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COMMUNITY

## Volunteers pitch in for cemetery repairs



**Rebecca Dingwell**  
For Metro | Halifax

Brian O'Brien is touched by the volunteer response to the vandalism of a Halifax cemetery.

"Look at the people we have here today," O'Brien, founder of the Holy Cross Historical Trust, said Saturday. "I'm really pleased and grateful."

More than 40 people showed up to the Holy Cross Cemetery on South Park Street in downtown Halifax on Saturday morning. Members of the trust, Saint Mary's University football team and other volunteers pitched in to fix what they could.

More than 60 headstones were knocked over or broken last week.

"This is the largest degree of damage that I've ever seen in any cemetery," said O'Brien.

The Trust was founded over eight years ago. Its members spend their Saturdays, April through November, restoring the cemetery. In one night, O'Brien explained, two years' worth of damage had been done.

"We had just about finished the work here ... and now, we've got another two summers."

Michael Nee, a Holy Cross trustee, said his "spirits are rejuvenated" seeing the number of people helping. "We're here with a large group who responded quite positively to our needs."

The groups of volunteers were able to put some of

the intact stones that were knocked over back in their places Saturday. Other stones have been cracked and won't be repaired until the spring.

"Our glue and our adhesives won't work in this cold weather," said O'Brien.

Worse still, some stones are completely destroyed.

"Some of them are up to 100 years old. They're quite ornate and delicate."

On Friday, Halifax Regional Police issued a release asking anyone with information regarding the vandalism to contact them or Crime Stoppers.

"Police are taking this very seriously in light of the disre-

spectful nature of the incident and given the cemetery's historic significance to our community," stated the release.

Dan O'Brien, trust board member, hopes police are able to find those responsible for the destruction.

"(We want) whoever the perpetrators are to come to the cemetery and help us fix it," he said. "That's all we want to happen."

Halifax Regional Municipality spokesperson Tiffany Chase said the city owns and maintains six cemeteries, but Holy Cross is not one of them. The ownership, she said, is a result of carry-over from ownership by the City of Dartmouth and City of Halifax before amalgamation in 1996.

"In the event of vandalism in one of our six cemeteries, repairs would be funded through the cemetery budget, where possible," Chase explained via email.



Volunteers work to get headstones upright again less than a week after vandals destroyed the sites. REBECCA DINGWELL/METRO

**60+**

The number of headstones knocked over or broken last week.



Hailey England, a goalie for the South Shore PeeWee A Ice Sharks, stands in a dressing room at the arena in Lunenburg on Friday.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Hockey mom drops gloves for daughter

SPORTS

## Girl, 12, kept from dressing in locker-room of all-boys team

A Nova Scotia mother who is fighting her 12-year-old daughter's exclusion from the dressing room of her all-boys hockey team says she's willing to compromise in order to find a solution.

Laura England, whose daughter Hailey is a goalie for the South Shore PeeWee A Ice Sharks, has launched a public media campaign against the enforcement of a policy that has her daughter dressing by herself in a separate room before games.

England, whose family lives near Lunenburg, N.S., said the team decided this year without warning that her daughter must be fully dressed before she's allowed to enter her team's dressing room. Her teammates must also be in all of their gear with

the exception of their gloves and helmets.

"Two weeks ago there were three boys in the room who had everything on but their jerseys, hockey gloves and their helmets and they were sent to the bathroom because Hailey entered the room," said England.

She said the situation has made her daughter, who has always played with boys, suddenly feel like she's not part of the team.

England said while she does understand why some people would not want boys and girls dressing together at her daughter's age, there should be some leeway granted.

"Even if the boys had their under armour and their hockey pants on," she said. "Just as long as they have their hockey pants on so she could come in the room and isn't missing out on everything."

Hailey England said hockey hasn't been as fun this season because of a rule and an issue that she wasn't expecting. She said she played at the same level of hockey last season and the

dressing room wasn't an issue. She feels she's not being treated fairly.

"I find I miss out on all the conversations in the dressing room and I'm always locked in this little broom closet, or as I think of it, a jail cell," she said. "I'm bored because I'm all by myself."

join her teammates," said Cosar. "But basically the policy just doesn't allow (her) to walk in from the street and strip down and change."

Both the team's coach and the president of the South Shore Hockey Association did not return requests for comment.

Laura England said she be-

**I miss out on all the conversations in the dressing room and I'm always locked in this little broom closet, or as I think of it, a jail cell.**

Hailey England

Darren Cosar, executive director of Hockey Nova Scotia, said his organization's dressing room policy mirrors that of Hockey Canada's, which stipulates that girls and boys must dress separately at age 11 and above.

However, he said teams do have some wiggle room under the policy as to exactly when the girl can enter the room.

"The girl still has the ability to enter the dressing room when appropriately clothed to

lieves the issue is being driven by some parents, although no one has told her their actual complaint.

She said local hockey officials will only say that the policy needs to be enforced.

"These kids are not showering together, they are not walking around naked together ... she (Hailey) just wants to be included with her team as a teammate in all aspects," said England.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



# New drop-off centre sees high volume of donations

★ SYRIAN REFUGEES IN CANADA ★

**Province says 46 asylum seekers due in city this month**



**Rebecca Dingwell**  
For Metro | Halifax

Savannah d'Entremont was one of many who came to the former Rona building in Bayers Lake to drop off donations for refugees.

On Thursday, the provincial government announced 46 privately sponsored refugees are destined for Halifax by the end of December.

"I just know that they're in need, and I had a lot of things in my house I didn't need anymore," d'Entremont said Saturday, the first day the drop-off centre was open.

Reportedly, the building developers offered the vacant retail space to be used for free.

"I had no idea what they were doing with this property, and that's a good way to use it," said d'Entremont. "Especially this time of year."

The centre was supposed to start taking donations at 11 a.m. on Saturday, but Dominic Fewer said donors were showing up by 9 a.m. — so they opened it an hour early.

Fewer is an emergency man-



**A volunteer receives donations** at the new drop-off centre at the old Rona building in Bayers Lake. REBECCA DINGWELL/METRO

**I just know that they're in need, and I had a lot of things in my house I didn't need anymore.**  
Savannah d'Entremont

agement planner with the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office. He's working with the Syrian Refugee Initiative.

"It's truly awe-(inspiring)," Fewer said of the number of donors. However, he added

he's not surprised.

"This is an example of the generosity Nova Scotians show in times of need."

Fewer said they've received lots of clothing so far, along with dishes and children's toys.

"(That) will be an absolutely wonderful thing when the new Nova Scotians show up."

Fewer explained that they aren't really looking for electronics, but there aren't many things that will be turned away.

"We're pretty well on target with things that we asked for — we'll know better in a couple of days," he said.

Scott Perry, for example, brought "everything you'd need to start a kitchen."

"It was the right thing to do," Perry said, adding the items had been left over after some relatives moved.

WITH FILES FROM JULIA MANOUKIAN

## + OPEN TIMES

The centre has scheduled drop-off hours until the end of January. It will open next on Tuesday.

## MIGRANTS

# Old convent ready to welcome Syrian family of six

The old convent in rural St. Andrews had been for sale for more than a year when the Sisters of St. Martha concluded that fate or something more powerful was telling them the big, empty home had a higher purpose.

In September, within a few weeks of Pope Francis urging more parishes to take in Syrian refugees, the nuns had turned their attention to making the house available when a call came from a local group thinking the same thing.

"Maybe it wasn't meant to be sold," says Sister Brenda Lee Boisvert, the order's congregation leader. "Maybe this was always in the mind and heart of the Holy Spirit — that we would always have a family enjoy this home that we enjoyed for 87 years."



**The 85-year-old convent in St. Andrews**, once operated by the Sisters of St. Martha. THE CANADIAN PRESS

With the help of the religious order, volunteers with the Tri-Heart Society are now preparing for the arrival of a privately sponsored Syrian family of six who have been living in a camp

in Lebanon.

The volunteers have been told the family's 43-year-old father is an electrician and welder, and his 39-year-old wife has secretarial skills. They have three

sons — ages 16, 13 and six — and an eight-year-old daughter.

Little else is known about the family, except that they speak Arabic and the eldest son speaks some English.

Tri-Heart has raised more than \$30,000 for living expenses. As well, the seven-room convent has been cleaned up, stocked with supplies and is accepting donated furniture.

A cozy living room with a flat-screen TV has replaced a small chapel. School supplies sit in neat piles on a small desk in an upper bedroom. And when the call went out last week for a kitchen table and chairs, a donated set showed up the next morning.

While there's no question the nuns and volunteers have the best interests of the refugees

at heart, the question remains: is a quiet, rural corner of eastern Nova Scotia an appropriate place to settle a family from a war zone?

Boisvert says she knows there will be challenges.

"They're going to come carrying what it feels like to be displaced, but this community is ready."

Harry Daemen, a retired engineer and chairman of Tri-Heart, says the group has consulted with three local schools to ensure they are ready for their new students. As well, several Arabic-speaking residents have come forward to help, including some professors at St. Francis Xavier University in nearby Antigonish.

MICHAEL MACDONALD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## CYBERBULLYING

# N.S. law violates Charter: Judge

A judge struck down a Nova Scotia law inspired by the death of Rehtaeh Parsons on constitutional grounds Friday, ruling it violates Charter rights to freedom of expression and liberty.

Justice Glen McDougall of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia also declined a Crown request to suspend his decision for 12 months to allow the legislature time to amend the law.

In his decision, McDougall said striking down "offending provisions" of the law wasn't practical either because they are "inextricably connected" to the act's definition of cyberbullying.

There was no word from the province whether it will appeal the decision.

Lawyer David Fraser challenged the Cyber-safety Act on constitutional grounds as part of a case involving client Robert Snell, who was placed under a cyber-safety protection order sought by his former business partner last December.

Giles Crouch was granted an order under the act after he told a justice of the peace that Snell began a "smear campaign" against him on social media several months after the two wound down their company in 2013.

The protection order prohibited Snell from cyberbullying or communicating with or about Crouch. It also ordered Snell to remove any online comments about Crouch.

McDougall found Snell had engaged in cyberbullying as defined in the act, and he concluded the behaviour was likely to continue. However, his decision to strike down the law voids the protection order.

The law was passed in May 2013 in response to public outrage over the death of Parsons a month earlier.

MICHAEL MACDONALD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



**Nova Scotia cyberbullying victim Rehtaeh Parsons**

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## IN BRIEF

**Car crashes into drug store**

The folks at Shoppers Drug Mart got a surprise, other than great savings, on Saturday afternoon.

Right around 3 p.m., a compact sedan came crashing through the front window from the parking lot, smashing out the tall pane of glass and lodging the front half of the car inside the store.

Colchester County RCMP, Cobequid Fire and EHS reported to the scene and found an 84-year-old woman had driven her car from a parking spot and through the window. She was uninjured and there were no injuries inside the store. TC MEDIA

**Cole Harbour man facing attempted murder charge**

A 26-year-old Cole Harbour man is facing an attempted murder charge after what police believe was a random stabbing Friday night.

Halifax RCMP arrested Thomas Daniel Jenkins on Saturday night. He is being held in custody and will appear in court Monday, according to a police news release.

The victim, a 33-year-old Cole Harbour man, remains in hospital with "serious injuries and stab wounds to his neck area," but police said he is expected to survive. METRO

**Police investigating after seven boats broken into**

Seven boats were broken into overnight Saturday in Tantallon and the Mounties are asking for witnesses to come forward with information.

Officers responded to Shining Waters Marina at 148 Nautical Way at about 10 a.m. on Sunday.

The crimes occurred either late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, with suspects cutting or prying open locks and rummaging through the boats, police said, adding what exactly was stolen is still being determined. METRO

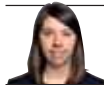


Demonstrators gather at the foot of the contentious sculpture in Cornwallis Park in 2014. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Premier mulls future of Cornwallis statue

## HERITAGE

## Monument's existence stirs up controversy



Haley Ryan  
Metro | Halifax

When Nova Scotia's premier discusses the city's Edward Cornwallis statue it gives weight to an important issue, one Halifax Regional Municipality councillor says. But Wayne Mason said it's too soon to say whether the figure should be removed.

In the legislature Friday, Premier Stephen McNeil responded to comments from PC MLA Allan MacMaster, who said a statue of Cornwallis in the park off Barrington Street in downtown Halifax should come down.

"Is there a way that we can ensure that we reflect our history and not having the founding people, the original people,

the people in Mi'kmaq territory to be offended by how we reflect that history?" McNeil asked, according to CBC.

The Cornwallis Park name and statue have been controversial for years, because the British military officer who founded Halifax issued a scalping proclamation in 1749, offering a bounty to anyone who killed a Mi'kmaq person.

Area councillor Mason said the issue has been on his radar since May 2014, when a public meeting was held over updating the park.

Mi'kmaq and Acadian residents asked for changes ranging from removing the statue, changing the park's name, adding more culturally inclusive art, and having a plaque outlining Cornwallis' full history, Mason said.

"(Now) what it tells on a little plaque is he came, he conquered, he was a good guy. And a modern view would not be that way," Mason said.

Some residents have also pointed out that removing the statue would remove the teaching opportunity to showcase a full history, Mason said.

"And future generations don't know. It's a temporary victory," he said.

But it's especially important to address the park's name, Mason said, since it's unlikely any Mi'kmaq people would enjoy performing or visiting a planned outdoor performance space with a Cornwallis name.

"This is an important issue. It's very uncomfortable for Aboriginals. It's not inclusive," Mason said.

Although it's "weird" to hear something as specific as Cornwallis Park mentioned in Province House, Mason said it's "great" the premier wants to meet with the municipality to see what can be done.

In January or February, Mason said he plans to table a motion about holding consultations with the community to

## ELDER'S VIEW

### Striking a compromise

A spokeswoman for Stephen McNeil says the premier plans to meet with Halifax Mayor Mike Savage to discuss the statue, which has stood in a downtown park for more than 80 years.

Mi'kmaq elder Daniel Paul says his goal is not to erase Cornwallis from history books, but to strike a compromise that recognizes the atrocities he committed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

work toward a solution, rather than the city solely deciding to remove the statue.

"It was coming anyway, but it certainly adds a little bit of weight to it when the premier's putting it on the record in the House," Mason said.

## GRENADA

## Family confirms death of professor

Police in Grenada say they believe a body found on the south side of the small Caribbean island is that of a missing New Brunswick woman who disappeared while jogging with her dog last Sunday.

Assistant Supt. Sylvan McIntyre of the Royal Grenada Police Force said late Friday that police were still awaiting autopsy results to be sure the remains found were those of Linnea Veinotte.

"There is no positive and expert identification at the moment," said McIntyre. "Based on physical evidence in the area where the body was found we believe it could be her."

Meanwhile, a Facebook page dedicated to the search for the missing woman was renamed "In Memory of Linnea Veinotte."

A post on the page Saturday from Matt Veinotte, who identified himself as Veinotte's husband, said he is feeling hurt and lost.

"Linnea has had such an amazing impact on the lives of so many people. She touched people in everything she did. Her love for the world was contagious. She truly made this world a better place. And without her in it, it won't be the same," Veinotte said in the post, adding that she leaves behind two sons.

McIntyre added that a person of interest in the case was still in custody, although no formal charges had been laid.

Police were questioning a 26-year-old man who had turned himself in after being wanted in connection with the disappearance of Veinotte.

McIntyre said Akim Frank walked into the police station early Friday.

"He's assisting us with the investigation at this point," said McIntyre. In an earlier release, police said Frank could be armed and was considered extremely dangerous.

Veinotte's father, Rev. Doug Moore, said earlier that his daughter was in Grenada for a year two years ago and then returned to Canada, where she worked as a professor at Acadia University in Nova Scotia. She went back to Grenada after getting a job offer at St. George's University. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Linnea Veinotte FACEBOOK



A Nova Scotia man stole over \$1,000 worth of toys and goods at the Cookville Walmart in Bridgewater. CONTRIBUTED

## CRIME

## Grinch-like theft at Walmart

In a crime that seems to take a page from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, police are looking for a man who they say stole over \$1,000 worth of toys and goods from a Nova Scotia store.

Lunenburg County RCMP said Friday they believe the theft happened on Saturday,

Dec. 5 around 8:45 p.m. at the Cookville Walmart in Bridgewater.

Police said over \$1,200 worth of toys and other merchandise were taken.

The suspect is described as a white man with a slim build, who is about six feet tall, with dark hair. He was

wearing a "distinctive" plaid blue jacket at the time of the un-festive theft.

Anyone who might have witnessed the crime, or has information about it, is asked to call Cookville RCMP at 902-527-5555, or send an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers.

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# Syrian refugees' arrival a 'real Christmas present'

## IMMIGRATION

### Anas Fransis reunited with relatives after 8 years

The arrival of a second federal government planeload of Syrian refugees in Montreal Saturday night was "a real Christmas present" for one Syrian man who was reunited with family he hasn't seen in eight years.

Anas Fransis and his mother were at the welcome centre near the airport to welcome Fransis' uncle and his wife, their two teenage daughters and Fransis' grandmother, who were among the 161 privately-sponsored refugees to make the trip from Beirut to Canada aboard a government aircraft.

Fransis ran out to greet them, twirling his cousins and embracing the adults. His grandmother, Laila Saeed, was the last one through the door, her face wet with tears.

"They'll be here for Christmas, they'll be here for New Year's," said Fransis, who came to Canada from Syria in 2008. "Their arrival is a Christmas present ... a real Christmas present."

**It makes me extremely proud that we are able ... to show them the face of freedom.**

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard

## + B.C.-BOUND

### Relatives of drowned boy to arrive by year's end

The aunt of a Syrian toddler whose lifeless body pictured on a Mediterranean beach sparked global outrage over a refugee crisis says the flights have been booked to bring her relatives to Canada.

Tima Kurdi says her brother Mohammad Kurdi, along with his wife and five children, are scheduled to arrive in British Columbia on Dec. 28.

Mohammad is the uncle of Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old boy who died alongside his mother and older brother when their overcrowded boat flipped while crossing the waters between Turkey and Greece. THE CANADIAN PRESS

His 13-year-old cousin Laila Beylouneh was excited for her family's new start.

"My future is starting now," she said in English. "I wish all my dreams will come true."

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard was on hand with Federal Immigration Minis-



Newly arrived Syrian refugee Samer Beylouneh, left, wipes a tear as his daughter Laila greets her aunt Marie Belona at a welcome centre in Montreal Saturday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ter John McCallum and Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre to greet the refugees, who landed around 8 p.m. Saturday. Numerous other federal and provincial cabinet ministers were also in attendance.

Speaking to volunteers ahead of time, Couillard said he was taking a special interest in the proceedings because he and his wife will be sponsoring a refugee family who are set

to arrive in early 2016. He said he was proud of Quebec and Canada's efforts to welcome the newcomers.

The arrival comes less than 48 hours after a government aircraft brought 163 refugees to Toronto on Thursday.

More than 400 refugees have arrived by commercial flights since the federal Liberals took power last month, but these have been the first

to be brought by government aircraft.

Upon arrival at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport, border services agents confirmed the refugees' identities and issued them interim health program certificates. By the time they were bussed to the centre they were officially permanent residents of Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## TRANS CANADA TRAIL

### N.S. part only 38% finished

With 18 months to go before Canada's 150th birthday, one of Nova Scotia's signature gifts to the country — its portion of the Trans Canada Trail — is only 38 per cent complete.

The Nova Scotia number looks particularly grim considering the proposed 24,000-kilometre trail is already 80 per cent connected after more than 24 years of work.

Jane Murphy, national trail director for the Trans Canada Trail, says volunteer organizations in Nova Scotia have faced some difficult challenges, but she insists the province is further ahead than the numbers suggest — and she remains confident the entire trail will be connected by July 1, 2017.

Vanda Jackson, executive director of Nova Scotia Trails, says the water trail is already accessible to the public and could be added to Nova Scotia's total immediately, but the group wants to make sure local communities are on board and safe access points are established. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Vanda Jackson  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

## CANADA REVENUE AGENCY

### Aboriginal workers to pay back taxes

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has been aggressively collecting back taxes from a group of mostly low-income aboriginal women who lost a long-running legal battle to be exempt from paying personal income taxes because their employer was situated on a reserve.

Native Leasing Services, an employee outsourcing company that has its headquarters on Six Nations of the Grand River, a reserve near Brantford, Ont., is seeking a remission order from National Revenue Minister Diane Lebovich, — who would have to recommend it to cabinet for approval



Ramona Dunn  
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

— on behalf of 3,916 former employees.

One of them is Ramona Dunn, 53, who the CRA says owes nearly \$94,000 in taxes, fines and interest for the five years she worked as a registered nurse and diabetes educator at Anishnawbe Health Toronto, where she was technically an employee of Native Leasing Services.

Dunn said she took the job at the non-profit agency for a smaller salary than she would have earned at a hospital.

CRA spokesman Philippe Brideau said remission orders are considered on a case-by-case basis. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## IN BRIEF

### Infrastructure projects to receive federal funding

Projects that are shovel-ready and meet the Liberal government's objectives will get some of the billions in federal cash being made available, Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi says.

The objectives include economic growth, job creation, and greater sustainability. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### B.C. in recovery mode after wicked weather

Southwestern B.C. is recovering from the latest in a series of recent storms.

Powerful winds and wet weather downed trees and power lines over the weekend, leaving thousands of Vancouver Island residents without electricity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# New agreement puts the planet on a 'carbon diet'

## ENVIRONMENT

### Close to 200 nations sign on to ambitious Paris eco-pact

The world is about to go on a carbon diet and it won't be easy — or cheap.

Nearly 200 nations worldwide approved a first-of-its-kind universal agreement Saturday to wean Earth off fossil fuels and slow global warming.

On Sunday morning, as with many first day dieters, the reality set in. The numbers — like calorie limits and gym time — are daunting.

How daunting? Try more than 7.04 billion tons. That's how much carbon dioxide needs to stay in the ground instead of being spewed into the atmosphere for those reductions to happen — if you take the easier of two goals mentioned in Saturday's deal. To get to the harder goal, the number is even larger.

In the pact, the countries pledged to limit global warming to about another degree Celsius — and if they can, only half that much.

A vaguer goal is that by sometime in the second half of the century, man-made greenhouse gas emissions — including methane and other heat-trapping gases as well as carbon dioxide — won't exceed the amount nature absorbs. Earth's complex and ever-changing carbon cycle would have to get back to balance.

In practice, the world will have to emit almost zero greenhouse gases by 2070 to reach the easier goal, or by 2050 to reach the harder one, said John



The slogan "DECARBONIZE" is projected on the Eiffel Tower as part of the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France on Dec. 11. FRAÇOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schellnhuber, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

The harder goal — limit warming by another half a degree Celsius — is probably already impossible, said Joeri Rogelj at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria. Most likely the best the world can hope for is overshooting by a few tenths of a degree and then slowly bring the temperature back down to the target.

That may involve something called negative emissions, a system in which the world (technology and nature combined) take out more carbon dioxide from the air than humanity

## 7.04

Volume of carbon dioxide emissions, in tons, needing to stay in the ground instead of being released to meet the easier of two new goals.

## 2070

By 2070, the world will have to emit close to zero greenhouse gases to achieve the easier of the two new targets set by Saturday's agreement.

puts in. Nearly 90 per cent of scenarios for how to establish a safer temperature in the world involve going backward, but are also so far not very realistic, said Kevin Anderson, deputy director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Britain.

Negative emissions involve more forests, maybe seeding the oceans, and possibly technology that sucks carbon out of the air and stores it underground. More biomass or forests require enormous land areas and direct capture of carbon from air is expensive, but with

a sustained research effort costs can probably be brought below \$100 per metric ton, said engineering and policy professor Granger Morgan of Carnegie Mellon University.

Leading up to the Paris Agreement, nearly every nation formed an individual action plan to cut or at least slow the growth of carbon pollution over the next decade or so. Richer, developed nations, like the United States, Europe and Japan, pledged to cut now. Developing nations that say they need fossil fuels to pull themselves out poverty pledged to slow the rate of growth now, and cut later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## CLIMATE PLAN

### 'The best chance we have'

President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry hailed the newly passed international climate change agreement as a major achievement that could help turn the tide on global warming, but got a quick reminder that Republicans will fight it all the way.

Obama said the climate agreement made Saturday night by almost 200 nations "can be a turning point for the world" and credited his administration for playing a key role.

He said the climate agreement "offers the best chance we have to save the one planet we have."

The immediate reaction of leading Republican critics was a stark reminder of the conflict that lies ahead.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Obama is "making promises he can't keep" and should remember that the agreement "is subject to being shredded in 13 months."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We've shown that the world has both the will and the ability to take on this challenge.

Barack Obama



## FRANCE

### Conservatives trump National Front surge

Marine Le Pen's far-right National Front collapsed in French regional elections Sunday, failing to take a single region after dominating the first round of voting, pollsters projected. The conservatives surged against the governing Socialists, changing the political map of France.

The failure of the National Front to gain any of the six regions where it was leading didn't stop the party from looking to the 2017 presidential election — Le Pen's ultimate goal.

Le Pen had been riding high after extremist attacks and an unprecedented wave of migration into Europe, and the party came out on top in the voting in France's 13 newly drawn regions in the first round a week ago.

"Here we stopped the progression of the National Front," said conservative Xavier Bertrand, who was projected to beat Le Pen in the Nord-Pas de Calais region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Fire kills 23 in Russia

A fire in a Russian home for people with mental illnesses killed 23 patients and injured another 23, emergency services said Sunday. The remaining 24 patients and four staff were unharmed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Saudis elect 20 women in monumental vote

Saudi voters elected 20 women for local government seats, a day after women voted and ran in elections for the first time in the country's history.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## ECONOMY

# Liberal deficits could hit \$25B

Now that the federal Liberals have shied away from their vow to keep annual deficits under \$10 billion, they've latched on to another fiscal target — and this one will be much easier to meet.

The new government is suddenly talking about the debt-to-GDP ratio, promising repeatedly to keep it on a downward track every year until the next election.

The government calculates its debt-to-GDP ratio by dividing total federal debt by the overall size of the economy, as measured by nominal GDP.

It represents a government's capacity to pay back debt — and focusing on it gives politicians more spending flexibility.

By targeting debt-to-GDP, the Liberals could instead be prepared to run annual deficits of up to \$25 billion in the coming years and still lower the ratio — as long as the economy grows at a decent pace, economists say.

"The government does have a fair bit of room if what they're trying to do is just see the debt-to-GDP ratio go down," said Mike Moffatt, who teaches economics at the University of Western Ontario's Ivey Business School.

The adoption of the debt-to-GDP ratio as a "fiscal anchor" is not new. It was mentioned in the Liberal election platform as one of the ways to keep spending under control. The campaign rhetoric, however, largely focused on the \$10-billion annual deficit. No longer.

With uncosted election promises piling up on top of unforeseen shortfalls in the underlying fiscal plan, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has emphasized the more-reachable fiscal anchor in recent days.

"We will continue to decrease (the debt-to-GDP ratio) every single year because that's important for the fiscal health of our country," Trudeau said Wednesday, after casting further doubt on the \$10-billion annual deficit target because of economic challenges.

"We always targeted modest deficits, we had hoped it would be around \$10 billion — we will see if we will be able to hold at that level."

Plain old math dictates the ratio can continue to fall even if the public books slide into the red — at least to a point.

That's because even if the federal debt gets fatter, the ratio will edge downwards if the economy is growing faster than the debt.

Still, in an economy battered by low commodity prices, the debt-to-GDP promise doesn't exactly look like a slam dunk, either. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## 0.9%

The government expects nominal GDP for 2015 to only grow by 0.9 per cent largely due to the squeeze of low oil prices, according to its fall fiscal update.

**We always targeted modest deficits ... around \$10 billion — we will see if we will be able to hold at that level.**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



As home prices soar out of reach for many, a growing number of Canadians are turning to alternative styles of housing — such as this tiny house in Victoria. CONTRIBUTED/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Canadians turn to pint-size housing

## LIVING SPACES

## Affordability, saving time some reasons for downsizing

Nine years ago, Thelma Fayle swapped her 4,000 square-foot home in a rural area of Victoria for a house measuring only nine feet wide on the inside after finding it exhausting to take care of her property.

The desire to save time is one of several factors cited by the growing number of Canadians who are turning to alternative styles of housing, ranging from narrow houses to tiny ones to those sandwiched into laneways between other homes.

Other factors include environmental considerations — smaller homes require less power to heat — and affordability concerns, as home prices

in certain Canadian cities continue to soar out of reach for many.

In Toronto, developer Adam Ochshorn says his company, Curated Properties, has found a niche in building homes for families who have been priced out of the market for detached houses but don't want to migrate out to the suburbs or live in a glass tower. Ochshorn has several projects in the works that preserve elements of the traditional detached house format — multi-floor living with an outdoor terrace — but in unconventional spaces and at a lower price point.

For some, like Connor Ferster, alternative living is less about affordability and more about wanting to live off the grid. In the winter of 2013 to 2014, Ferster ditched his studio apartment in downtown Calgary for a teepee 45 minutes outside the city. The following summer, he built a 96-square foot home on wheels.



A small house in Victoria THE CANADIAN PRESS

Of course, the shift to compact living comes with some challenges. Ottawa-based architect and tiny home expert Andy Thomson, who himself is sharing a 500 square-foot space with his wife and their 11-year-old child, says the key to getting by in a constrained space is to have "furniture that's like a swiss army knife" — such as shelving units and beds that fold into the walls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Marketing the holidays tricky

When something as simple as a red Starbucks cup stirred a controversy stateside over how businesses mark the approach of Christmas, Canadian retailers took notice.

Retailers across the country are well aware that how they market the holidays in an increasingly multicultural society is a sensitive issue. The way in which retailers approach the weeks leading up to the end of the year has evolved over

time as businesses respond to customer reactions.

This year's Starbucks controversy, which hogged headlines in the U.S. in November, shone a spotlight on the issue. Executives said they wanted to embrace "simplicity and quietness." But some religious conservatives saw the new cup as a blow against tradition.

About a decade ago, retailers who didn't want to offend any segment of Canada's multi-

cultural society removed the word Christmas from much of their marketing, said Michael LeBlanc, senior vice-president of marketing with the Retail Council of Canada.

Businesses now appear to have permission from most Canadians to use the word Christmas as Dec. 25 approaches without it being taken as an affront to those who don't celebrate the occasion, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

### Stumped? I'm here to help with your hard-to-buy-for list

You're very busy, I know.

You have 15 people to buy presents for, and that's not even counting yourself. Sure, you made a trip to the mall, but it took three days to find your way out again (online shopping has decimated your mall-navigation skills).

Well, I'm here to offer a few tips for those hard-to-buy-for listees.

Let's start in the obvious place: Justin Trudeau. Now that he's a sex symbol in the U.S. (those Vogue photos? Grrrr!), he's likely wondering what this means for his future memoir endeavours. Common Ground was a bit of political positioning ahead of the election. It's far too on-the-nose for a sex-symbol memoir, which should include much more innuendo and tongue-in-cheek asides, if not some actual cheek — and thus I recommend you gift him Burt Reynolds' new memoir *But Enough About Me* (no, not "Butt"). There's apparently a lot more to Burt than his 1970s nude centre-fold, and Trudeau, reduced to his broad chest, strong jaw and wavy hair by the U.S. press, may need, one day, to make a similar argument after posing tastefully nude to raise awareness about climate change.

On to the next: Angela Merkel, *Time* magazine 2015 Person of the Year.

Perhaps you don't speak

German or know much about Germany or even how to properly pronounce her name, though it's really not that hard (it's a hard "g"). You perhaps do know that she is considered a modern-day international-diplomacy and left-wing-enough Wonder Woman. Hence, the perfect gift is Jill Lepore's *The Secret History* of Wonder Woman. There are always lessons for politicians to be found in history, such as the shameful detention of Japanese Americans during World War II, and this book charts Wonder Woman's connection to first-wave feminism and details of her creator's love of S&M. Like I said, much to learn.

Of course your shopping list won't be dealt with purely by a trip to your local, independent bookstore that's been around so long it's practically heritage designated.

So, for the ISIL fighter on your list, you'll need to head online and research the right fine French perfume, or perhaps a Twix chocolate bar. Let me explain: in a recent interview on National Public Radio, a man who'd escaped from an ISIL-controlled town detailed the fascination ISIL fighters have with Western goods, even luxury cars. So if you can afford it, splurge on a Ferrari.

And there you have it: Christmas made easy! Happy shopping and ho ho ho!

#### Metro MONDAY POLL

### One nation under vaccination

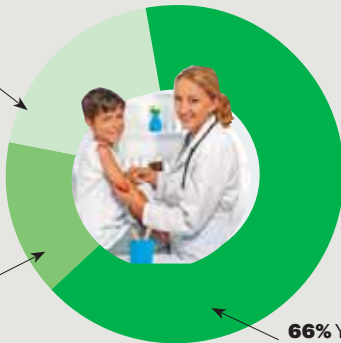
Visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) every Friday to have your say.

**Under a proposed Ontario law**, parents will have to attend an education session at the local public-health unit if they want a vaccine exemption for non-medical reasons. Few things have been more explosively controversial — or more maligned — in recent years than vaccinations, though evidence conclusively shows they're safe and effective. In fact, they're so effective that many of us have never personally encountered a vaccine-preventable illness. We asked our readers for forgotten family stories about the fear-filled days before shots prevented some of the most deadly diseases.

#### 1 Should all routine vaccinations be mandatory in Canada?

19% No, it should be up to parents

15% No, but there should be a serious consequence for not vaccinating (i.e. a financial penalty, or being banned from school)

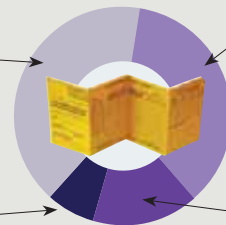


66% Yes, no excuses unless there is a valid health exception

#### 2 How do you keep track of vaccinations for yourself or your family?

41% Old-fashioned paper

7% Digitally/with an app



36% I trust my doctor, school or health unit to keep track

16% I don't. One of us is probably due for a booster

#### 3 What's your experience with vaccine-preventable diseases?

40% I've never had one & don't know anyone who has. 32% I've suffered from a vaccine-preventable disease. 17% A family member or someone I know has had one. 11% Either myself, someone I know or a family member has suffered permanent effects of a vaccine-preventable disease.

We had to cancel a trip because someone at my son's daycare got chickenpox.

I contracted measles as a small child and was left partly deaf.

My grandfather was partially paralyzed for life due to polio.

I had measles, mumps and chickenpox before there were vaccines. They were all miserable.

WE ASKED Metro readers

## This & that: My quick take on 3 Halifax stories

#### HALIFAX MATTERS

Stephen Kimber



An innovative anti-cyberbullying law that seemed to its framers like justice in the heat of an emotional moment has turned out to be a "colossal failure," according to a Supreme Court of Nova Scotia ruling. It not only couldn't stand the test of a Charter challenge but must also, immediately, be struck from the law books.

That's the problem with creating legislation in the

heat of an emotional moment — whether that moment is the tragic death of 17-year-old Rehtaeh Parsons after months of online harassment, or last year's violent act of random homegrown terrorism/mental derangement on Parliament Hill.

Nova Scotia's cyberbullying legislation was written so broadly, says David Fraser, the lawyer who successfully challenged it, that the law meant, "Thou shalt not hurt anyone's feelings online."

One hopes this government will take some time before trying again.

It was shocking, but not surprising, to learn last week that there were no provisions in Halifax Chief Administrative Officer Richard Butts' contract to prevent him from leaping from overseeing the

development of our city to becoming the president of one of its developers. Or that Butts himself doesn't see a conflict.

"I'm going to a place where I think the interests of (Clayton Developments Ltd.) and the interests of Halifax are very much aligned, and that's great city building."

This, after all, is a city where one-third of all campaign donations in the last municipal election came from the "development community."

We're one just happy developing family.

What to make of the surge in support for Stephen McNeil's Liberal Party? The latest poll shows the government with an incredible 64 per cent support among voters.

Some are making the case McNeil's tough stance

on public-sector workers is responsible. Perhaps, but it's worth noting that polling ended the day Nova Scotia teachers voted "no" to the province's take-it-or-leave-it contract, triggering what could be a winter of labour discontent.

It's also worth noting McNeil currently has the political field to himself. Progressive Conservative leader Jamie Baillie, for whatever reason, has failed to gain traction with voters, and the NDP is just now gearing up to elect a new leader.

The next election is still two years, and a political lifetime, away.

**Stephen Kimber** is a professor of journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax and an award-winning writer, editor and broadcaster. Halifax Matters runs every Monday.

**The next election is still two years, and a political lifetime, away.**

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# Your Star Wars primer

Frozen in carbonite for the last 38 years? Recently returned from exile on Dagobah? You can still turn your watercooler into the Mos Eisley Cantina with this Star Wars 101 crash course, just in time for *The Force Awakens* on Dec. 18. **COLIN MCNEIL/METRO**

In four days, the Force will awaken for the first time in a decade.

A new Star Wars movie is coming out, and in case you haven't heard, advance ticket sales have shattered records. Star Wars-branded merchandise has already done \$1 billion in sales — and no one's even seen the movie yet.

But after 38 years, six feature-length films and more novels, comics and TV shows than you can shake a lightsaber at, why is the world going crazy for another Star Wars movie?

Well, for one thing, George Lucas had nothing to do with it, having sold the franchise to Disney for a cool \$4 billion in 2012. And believe it or not, that's a relief to many diehard fans.

They had their hearts broken when Lucas decided to alter his original masterpieces in the 1990s by inserting gratuitous computer animation and changing essential details in character-defining scenes (read: Greedo shooting first).

Then there's the nostalgia factor. The last time anyone got this excited for a new Star Wars movie, we got Jar Jar Binks and a sour taste in our mouths for

the price of admission. But those were the prequels — weird, lame prequels that took some of our favourite characters and ideas, and blew them up like the Death Star blew up Alderaan.

To that end, Disney has very



consciously tried to entwine this new film with the classics we all know and love. The trailers are light on new characters, heavy on X-Wings, Han and Chewie, and goosebump-inducing shots of the Millennium Falcon.

So for every fan who's been holding on to their VHS copies of the original trilogy, for every kid that came out of the theatre in 1999 confused and disappointed, *The Force Awakens* has been a long time coming.

Follow Colin McNeil on Twitter @McNeilColin



## STAR WARS A TIMELINE OF THE UNIVERSE

Grab the popcorn and tell your protocol droid to hold your calls. We've got the ultimate, chronologically ordered Star Wars watchlist.

• ALL FIGURES REPRESENT TOTAL LIFETIME DOMESTIC GROSS

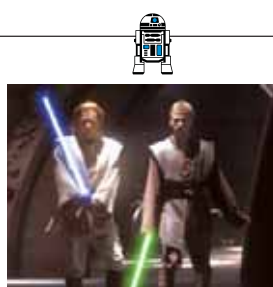


MAY 19, 1999

### Ep. I: The Phantom Menace

Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Qui-Gon Jinn battle an evil Sith Lord called Darth Maul. Meanwhile, a young slave named Anakin Skywalker discovers his latent abilities in the Force.

GROSS \$474,544,677

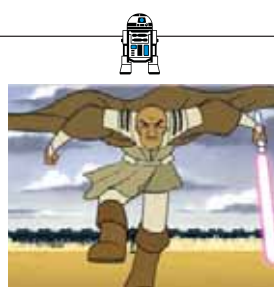


MAY 16, 2002

### Ep. II: Attack of the Clones

Ten years later, Obi-Wan begins to unravel dark threads hinting at machinations behind a separatist war within the Galactic Republic, while Anakin falls in love with the former Queen of the planet he helped save as a boy.

GROSS \$310,675,583

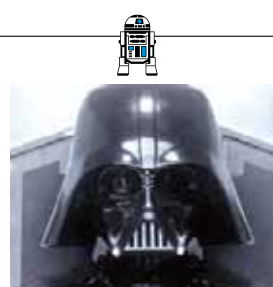


2003, 2008

### Clone Wars

Two separate cartoon shows, *Star Wars: Clone Wars* (2003) and *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008) bridge the three-year gap between Episodes II and III.

GROSS N/A



MAY 19, 2005

### Ep. III: Revenge of the Sith

After a Sith Lord called Darth Sidious seizes the Republic in a political coup, he orders all Jedi exterminated. Embracing the dark side of the Force, Anakin joins him and becomes Darth Vader.

GROSS \$380,262,555



2014, 1985

### Rebels; Droids; and Ewoks

Three separate animated series, *Rebels* chronicles the genesis of the rebellion against the Galactic Empire, *Ewoks* follows a cast of the cuddly critters, and *Droids* the beloved characters C-3PO and R2-D2.

GROSS N/A



# 3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

## 1 All in the family

The ties that bind the Star Wars universe — through its soon-to-be seven films, myriad novels and television shows — are familial ones. The story begins with a young Anakin Skywalker, who (spoiler alert!) grows into a Jedi Knight, falls to the Dark Side, and is defeated by his own children, Luke and Leia.

And it gets much deeper: Luke's mentors are the same

as his father's, his droid companion C-3PO was built by his father. Darth Sidious (a.k.a. Emperor Palpatine) hails from the same planet as Luke's mother.

With *The Force Awakens* set 30 years after *Return of the Jedi*, and a slew of new characters, it's a safe bet the Skywalker and Solo family trees will grow more branches.

Just who are they and how are they related to the Skywalker legacy? Not even Jedi clairvoyance could reveal that.



## 2 The Force?

Obi-Wan Kenobi called the Force an "energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together." That's the philosophical view.

The prequel trilogy, much to the displeasure of many Star Wars fans, boiled the Force down to quantifiable, microscopic particles called

midi-chlorians. The higher a being's midi-chlorian count, the more potentially powerful they could be in the ways of the Force.

There are two very broad categories of Force users — light side and dark side. The light side of the Force is all about peace, love and knowledge. Namaste.

The dark side are the naughty ones — they use raw emotions like anger, fear and even love as their power base.

## 3 Empire vs. Rebellion

The bad guys in the original Star Wars trilogy, and likely in *The Force Awakens*, are the Galactic Empire — a totalitarian regime ruled by a Sith lord. The Empire is a xenophobic, militant organization that enforces its rule of law with blaster rifles and storm troopers. In past films, they have committed mass genocide on a planetary scale.

The rebellion is a group of volunteer freedom fighters who stand against the Empire, trying to restore the Republic of old. Always outnumbered and outgunned, they fought a desperate battle against the Empire, finally toppling it thanks in large part to a young man named Luke Skywalker. From what we know from the Episode VII trailers, *The Empire*, or a splinter of it, has survived decades after the fall of the second Death Star.

## WHO'S WHO

### Droids

A catchall term for robots, shorthand for androids. Anything made of metal that moves around, bleeps and bloops or speaks is a droid. Though sentient, they possess no inherent rights or freedoms as beings.



### Stormtroopers

The mainstay of the Empire's foot soldiers, these iconically armoured warriors have been present in nearly every Star Wars film. And yes, they're human beings underneath the armour.



### Sleek spaceships

Almost true characters themselves, Star Wars symbolism is rife with iconic spaceships like the rough and tough Millennium Falcon, the darkly sleek Tie fighters, and the rebels' go-to space fighter of choice, the X-Wing.



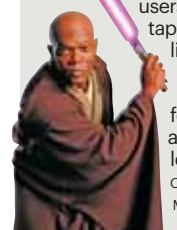
### Sith

The evil anti-thesis to the Jedi, they harness the power of the Dark Side of the Force. There can be only two Sith in existence at one time — a master, and an apprentice. These guys wield red lightsabers and adopt a 'decapitate first, ask questions later' attitude.



### Jedi

Somewhere between medieval knights of Arthurian legend and mystic druids, Jedi are Force users who tap into the light side, using their power only for defence and knowledge.



COLIN MCNEIL/  
METRO



MAY 25, 1977

### Ep. IV: A New Hope

Luke Skywalker, son of Anakin, joins a rebellion against what is now the Galactic Empire — a totalitarian regime ruled by Darth Vader and his master, Sidious. Luke befriends smuggler Han Solo and rebellion leader Princess Leia.

GROSS \$460,998,007



JUNE 20, 1980

### Ep. V: The Empire Strikes Back

Luke trains with the last of the Jedi masters — Yoda — in preparation for his battle with Darth Vader, while Han Solo and Leia are betrayed by an old friend. Vader reveals he is Luke's father.

GROSS \$290,158,751



MAY 25, 1983

### Ep. VI: Return of the Jedi

While Luke confronts his father and Emperor Palpatine personally, Han and Leia help rebel forces topple the Empire once and for all in a climactic space battle.

GROSS \$309,125,409



1970S TO PRESENT

### The lost storylines

For decades between the films, fans have sated their appetite for Star Wars with an entire galaxy of novels and comics. These books have now been officially de-canonized by Disney, leaving many beloved storylines in timeline purgatory.

GROSS N/A



DEC. 18, 2015

### Ep. VII: The Force Awakens

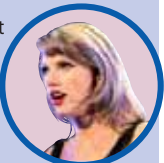
The exact plot details of Episode VII are a closely guarded secret, but we do know Luke, Han and Leia feature in it, alongside new protagonists and a sinister looking Sith called Kylo Ren. It takes place 30 years after Episode VI.

PRE-SALE GROSS \$50,000,000+



**GOSSIP BRIEFS****Has Swift gone mad with trademarking power?**

Taylor Swift decided to close out her banner year by trying to trademark a whole slew of terms, including "Blank space," "Swiftmas" and "1989." Swift filed 20 trademark applications in all. NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO

**Elizabeth Olsen dumped fiancé over the phone**

Oh man, this is rough. Actor Boyd Holbrook, former fiancé of Elizabeth Olsen, apparently feels like enough time has gone by to vent his frustrations about the demise of their relationship — a breakup neither had officially confirmed before now.



"On the same day that my best friend died, I got a call from my girl to tell me it was over," Holbrook tells *Man of the World* magazine, referring to the split as a "divorce," even. The one-two punch of Olsen's breakup call and friend David Armstrong's death led Holbrook to become "consumed with my own personal depression," he says, though he did eventually cheer himself up over the past 10 months.

NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO



**Paul Mason, also known as Fashion Santa, has gained international attention for his collaboration with Yorkdale Shopping Centre as the Toronto mall's Fashion Santa. Mason is taking selfies with shoppers to raise funds for The Hospital for Sick Children.** CHRIS NICHOLLS/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

**PAUL MASON****Long-time model takes selfies for SickKids**

Paul Mason has devoted three decades to modelling, but the worldwide attention he's received for his stylish take on Santa Claus is a fashionable first.

Toronto's Yorkdale Shopping Centre enlisted Mason as its resident Fashion Santa and the face of the mall's holiday campaign.

During the festive season, he is also posing for selfies with shoppers in support of SickKids Foundation, which raises funds on behalf of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

But beyond his own white beard and a penchant for red and white, Mason shares little else in common with the jolly old elf — and that's part of what's made him an overnight sensation.

The 6-foot-1 model has made a splash posing in sleek designer wear and striking poses in and around the mall showcasing his modern twist on St. Nick.

The images have gone viral, garnering attention from magazines like *Time*, *Fortune* and *Harper's Bazaar*, and press from across the pond from the *Telegraph* newspaper and BBC.

"It's just the most unexpected thing," said Mason, 51.

"Of course, I've had a long career — 30 years as a model prior to social media — and this is something else. I've never seen anything like it.

"Through working all over the world, I have friends in all the major cities, and collectively they've come together and just supported what's going on. But

they're equally as shocked as anyone else."

Mason collaborated with Yorkdale last year, but the shopping centre embarked on a larger promotional push with this year's campaign, said marketing director Lucia Connor.

Connor said she believes part of the intense interest stems from the ability of adults to reconnect with a part of their childhood.

"When we speak to some of the customers that come through to see Santa, the adults get so excited and they say: 'The last time I took a photo with

Santa I was young, I was little,'" she said.

"I think now what people are able to do is now proudly display their own photo of adult Fashion Santa, and instead of the mantel, they're displaying it on their social media feeds."

Mason is slated to take on Fashion Santa duty at the mall on Dec. 18, 19, 20 and 23.

For every selfie taken and posted on social media and accompanied by the hashtag "YorkdaleFashionSanta," Yorkdale will donate \$1 to SickKids Foundation, up to \$10,000.

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**JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING****The Miley the merrier**

**THE SHOW A VERY MURRAY CHRISTMAS (NETFLIX)  
THE MOMENT THE MILEY MIRACLE**

For 40 minutes, we've watched people be sad. Bill Murray has the Christmas blues. A snowstorm has kept his guests from showing up at Manhattan's Carlyle Hotel to tape his holiday special. He trades barbs with his agents (Amy Poehler and Julie White). He talks to a distressed bride and groom (Rashida Jones and Jason Schwartzman).

Finally, something magical happens: Murray passes out, and into his dream, on a sleigh, rides... Miley Cyrus. She wears a fur-trimmed red mini with matching pumps. She sits on a white grand piano and belts out *Silent Night*. She saves Christmas



**Miley Cyrus with George Clooney, left, and Bill Murray in *A Very Murray Christmas*.**

CONTRIBUTED

— and Murray's ass.

I'm not saying there isn't a place for sadness during the holidays. There is. But this is ironic sadness, and Christmas and irony do not go well together. You end up feeling nothing.

Murray, director Sophia Coppola, and writer Mitch Glazer clearly are enamoured with the

random nature of holiday specials — how celebs just show up and sing. Unfortunately, they don't seem to realize that the randomness had a point: the singing (example: Bing Crosby and David Bowie's famous duet of *The Little Drummer Boy*). This has entirely too much croaking. It's an un-special.

Also, it may be heretic for me to say this, but I'm growing weary of Murray. He was smart to dole himself out sparingly all these years. When you see too much of him, you realize how thin his schtick is. His natural role is sending out quips from the sidelines. Miley is a star.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



# Christmas is in the mail



Oh Clark Griswold. Unlike the hero of National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, there is no need to settle for the Jelly of the Month club. Instead this season, try some of these decidedly more appealing box-of-the-month deals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## BarkBox

**Cost:** \$29 per month for one month, up to \$228 for 12 months, with \$5 extra shipping charge to send boxes to Canada.

**What's inside:** Surprise Fido monthly with this box of pup-approved treats, chews, and toys to get their tails wagging. Pick a box based on your dog's size.

**How it started:** Founders Carly Strife, Matt Meeker and Henrik Werdelin had a hard time finding products they liked at their local pet stores for their pups. "So they decided to put together a box that would surprise and delight and give the dogs a piece of mail every month," says Alexis Anderson, BarkBox's head of partnerships.

**Website:** barkbox.com



## Spicy subscriptions

**Cost:** Boxes range from \$14.95 for a single product/monthly to \$250 for a year. Shipping to Canada is an extra \$6.50.

**What's inside:** From lubes, lotions and oils to toys and accessories, this sexy subscription is sure to surprise. Oh and yes, the company ships discreetly.

**How it got started:** Adi and his girlfriend had started dating and wanted to explore some intimate items — only it was a bit intimidating for his partner. That's when he realized it probably wasn't just her who felt like that.

**Website:** spicysubscriptions.com

## Office grocery

**Cost:** From \$45 to \$130.

**What's inside:** Weekly, biweekly or monthly boxes have subscribers choosing fruit, bulk snacks, trail mixes and mixed bars.

**How it got started:** Rory Stavro-Pearce already knew the business — after all, he'd been running a healthy vending machine company, Organic Vending for almost seven years.

**Website:** officegrocery.com



## Panty by post

**Cost:** From \$45 to \$380 depending on the line of briefs you choose.

**What's inside:** Underwear by mail? You bet — choose from the basic, signature (the site's most popular panties) or premium lines to surprise the man or woman in your life monthly with a new set of undies.

**How it got started:** An appreciator of all things French, Vancouver-based Natalie Grunberg wanted to share that "Frenchness" with others. "I wanted to deliver something that was little because of shipping rates, that was something everything needs and that was French," she says. She spends part of her summers in the Riviera.

**Website:** pantybypost.com

Weeknights at 6 Hannah counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day.

**TOP SIX@6 LAST NIGHT:**

- 6 Ariana Grande Focus
- 5 Daya Hideaway
- 4 Justin Bieber Sorry
- 3 Shawn Mendes ft Camila Cabello I Know What You Did Last Summer
- 2 Adele Hello
- 1 Classified ft Snoop Dogg No Pressure

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## Herd corralled in OT

QMJHL

### Moose lose to Voltigeurs following Sea Dogs dustup



**Kristen Lipscombe**  
Metro | Halifax

From a brawl that grabbed the Internet's attention to a game that ended in overtime, this weekend certainly wasn't without its entertainment and excitement for the Halifax Mooseheads.

In the end, the Mooseheads skated away with an 8-5 win over the Saint John Sea Dogs on Friday night, and a 3-2 loss Sunday evening to the Drummondville Voltigeurs, with both games playing out at the Scotiabank Centre. They are now 12-16-4-1, good enough for 14th overall in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and fourth place in the Maritimes Division.

On Sunday, Voltigeurs forward Jeremy Way-Gagnon notched the game-winner just over two minutes into the extra frame in what was a solid effort on both sides.

"We had some good times in the game and bad times," Finnish first-year forward Otto Somppi said after the loss.

The "good times" on the ice Sunday included a strong Halifax start, with veteran centreman Danny Moynihan scoring his team-leading 23rd of the season and putting the Moose ahead 1-0 late in the first.

The "bad times" included



Mooseheads centre Danny Moynihan watches his shot go past Voltigeurs goaltender Anthony Dumont-Bouchard for a goal, as defenceman Frédéric Aubé gives chase on Sunday at the Scotiabank Centre. JEFF HARPER/METRO

two straight goals from Alex Barré-Boulet, who scored one late in the second and another early in the third to help the Volts steal a 2-1 lead.

Third-year forward Maxime Fortier tied it up for the Herd at 13:52 in the third period.

Fortier credited rookie forward Joel Bishop for putting the puck on his tape as he stepped onto the ice on a shift change and making the tying goal happen.

"It was an easy goal," Fortier said.

He agreed with Somppi that the game came down to consistency.

### NEXT UP

The Mooseheads are back at home Thursday night to host the Moncton Wildcats. Puck drops is 7 p.m.

"We have to be more consistent as a team to get a better result," Fortier said.

The Moose went without the star power of Timo Meier, who has joined Switzerland's under-20 national team for the upcoming world junior championship, as well as the physical power of Kelly Bent, who is

serving a five-game suspension after Friday night's win.

The QMJHL's director of player safety slapped him with two games for inappropriate behaviour and one game for being a repeat offender — on top of the two-game automatic suspension for being an aggressor in a second-period fight.

Sea Dogs forward Bokondji Imama ended up with 15 games following the heated melee, which officials had trouble breaking up, and even caught the attention of websites such as deadspin.com, under a story titled "Referees Powerless To Stop Massive Hockey Brawl."

"After the game, everyone was talking about that," Fortier said. "It's always physical games against them, so it's just emotions."

"Those things happen in a game and we just have to move on."

In his last game before taking off for the world juniors, Meier put away six points, including two goals; while Moynihan added five points, including two goals; defenceman Cavan Fitzgerald contributed four points, including a couple of markers himself, while Andrew Shewfelt and Maxime Fortier had a goal and an assist apiece.

### IN BRIEF

#### Canucks lend Virtanen to Canadian junior team

Jake Virtanen of the Vancouver Canucks was given permission to join Canada's national junior team on Sunday ahead of the world junior hockey championship.

The announcement came just an hour after Hockey Canada completed its first round of cuts to its selection camp roster.

Forwards Pierre-Luc Dubois, Michael Dal Colle and Spencer Watson were cut by Hockey Canada along with defenceman Jakob Chychrun.

The cuts came after Canada beat a team of all-stars from Canadian universities, 5-0, in an exhibition game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### Homan outsweeps Jones to win Canadian Open

Ottawa's Rachel Homan scored a pair in the final end for an 8-7 victory over Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones in Sunday's final at the Canadian Open.

It was the third straight Grand Slam victory for Homan, who won the Masters and the National earlier this season.

Toronto's John Epping defeated Brad Gushue of St. John's 7-4 in the men's final.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



**Rachel Homan**  
CURLING CANADA



The Penguins were 58-37-15 under former head coach Mike Johnston. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

## Crosby: Coaching change on Pens players

New Penguins coach Mike Sullivan believes his team has a chance to be great, and it's up to him to help the players reach their potential.

Sullivan ran his first practice as Pittsburgh's coach on Sunday, a day after the team fired Mike Johnston and assistant Gary Agnew in an attempt to shake up a star-studded group that has underperformed through the first two months of the season.

"I'm a firm believer that

the players have to take ownership of their team," Sullivan said. "I believe it's their team, not mine."

Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin have headlined the team's high-profile roster the last decade. The Penguins then traded for



**Sidney Crosby**  
GETTY IMAGES

elite winger Phil Kessel during the summer.

The Penguins are fifth in a crowded Metropolitan Division. The Penguins also have struggled offensively, ranking near the bottom of the NHL with a little more than two goals per game.

The slow start prompted Pittsburgh to let Johnston go after a 58-37-15 record in less than two years with the team.

"It's never a good situation as

players," Crosby said. "We take full responsibility. The coach is the one who takes the fall, but ultimately it's on us."

"We've got to be better, there's no question. The expectations are high and we understand that."

Sullivan most recently coached Pittsburgh's affiliate in the American Hockey League and he had the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins off to an 18-5-0 start. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





The Panthers' Fozzy Whittaker breaks through for a 16-yard touchdown run against the Atlanta Falcons in the second half of Sunday's game in Charlotte, N.C. MIKE MCCARN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Falcons fall at feet of powerful Panthers

NFL

## Carolina hits new level of dominance to improve to 13-0

Cam Newton raced from one end of the Carolina Panthers' sideline to the other in the final moments of a 38-0 rout of the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday, raising his arms to the crowd as fans cheered on their emotional MVP candidate.

"I believe right now it's our moment as Panthers," Newton said with a smile. "We try to seize it as much as possible."

Newton — and the fans — had

SUNDAY In Charlotte

**38**  
PANTHERS

**0**  
FALCONS

plenty of reason to celebrate.

The fifth-year quarterback completed 15 of 21 passes for 265 yards and three touchdowns, and the unbeaten Panthers clinched a first-round bye in the NFC playoffs in what Newton described as the team's most complete game.

It's hard to argue that. The Panthers out-gained the Falcons 424-230, forced four turnovers and matched the franchise's largest margin of victory. It was never close.

## + ELSEWHERE

### Steelers 33, Bengals 20

Andy Dalton broke his right thumb while making a tackle on an interception, and the Steelers roughed up backup AJ McCarron while pulling away to a win that leaves the AFC North up for grabs.

### Seahawks 35, Ravens 6

Russell Wilson threw five TD passes, three to Doug Baldwin, against the injury-depleted Ravens. Wilson, who went 23 for 32 for 292 yards, matched a career high with his five TD throws.

Jonathan Stewart ran for a one-yard TD and Newton connected on scoring strikes of 74 and 46 yards to Ted Ginn Jr. as the Panthers (13-0) scored on their first three possessions to take a 21-0 first quarter lead.

Newton also threw a four-yard TD pass to Ed Dickson in

the final seconds of the first half before leaving for good at the end of the third quarter with Carolina up 38. He finished with a career-high QB rating of 153.3.

"Don't ease up on the gas," Newton said. "We want to be considered finishers."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

## Settling in after historic start

Every victory raised the stakes for the Golden State Warriors.

Now that their record winning streak is over, the defending NBA champions can return to a bit of normalcy.

"I just told the guys that now we can have a regular season," forward Draymond Green said in recounting his talk to teammates after Saturday night's loss to the Bucks in Milwaukee.

Golden State's NBA-record start ended after 24 games with the 108-95 loss. The Warriors

had a 28-game regular-season winning streak going back to last spring, five short of the NBA record 33-game run by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1971-72.

Attention on the Warriors and their likable cast of characters, led by MVP sharpshooter Stephen Curry, grew as the wins piled up.

But the streak crumbled on Saturday at the end of a seven-game road trip, less than 24 hours after Golden State needed two overtimes to win in Boston.

"We looked like we ran out of

gas a little bit," Warriors interim coach Luke Walton said.

His team, which normally makes 13 threes a game, was 6 of 26 from behind the arc.

Guard Shaun Livingston said the streak made the Warriors' season different.

"It has been mentally taxing, just every game. We're competitors, so we're not complaining about it. It is fun to play that way," Livingston said. "I think now we can settle in more to the season." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**72-10**

Led by reigning MVP Stephen Curry the 24-1 Warriors will continue to draw hype as they chase the Chicago Bulls' 72-10 record from 1995-96 — the best regular-season finish in NBA history.

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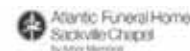
## metr OBITUARIES

### AYLWARD, George William



age 80 of Lower Sackville, died peacefully on Thursday December 10, 2015. Born in Halifax, he was the son of the late George William and Alda Ena (Dennis) Aylward. George was a truck driver most of his life. He drove for Maritime Ontario Freight Lines until his retirement. He was predeceased by his 1st wife, Arlene and step son, Andy Verney. George is survived by

his wife, Viola (Verney); children, Joanne MacDonald (Stephen), George (Wendy) and Wendy Snow (Miles); step children, Gregory Verney (Dawn), Lisa Verney (Lisa), Michelle Verney; step daughter in law, Janice Verney; grandchildren; Cory, Samantha, Zachary, Blake and Evan. We would like to thank the staff and residents at Ocean View Manor for all their love and support and excellent care of our father during his stay there. Visitation will be held from 11am - 1pm Tuesday, December 15 followed by a funeral service at 1pm, both in Atlantic Funeral Home 125 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville. Burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com](http://www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com) (Sackville Chapel)

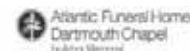


### WILSON, Roberta Lee



age 42 of Halifax passed away Thursday December 10, 2015 at home surrounded by her family and friends. Born in Halifax, Roberta was the daughter of Linda Wilson of Halifax and the adoptive daughter of Caroline Hardy, Dartmouth. Roberta is also survived by fiancée, Paul Roberts; children, Michelle, Nicholas "Nicky", Matthew and Nathaniel; sisters, Carol

Ann and Tania; brother, Jimmy and 4 grandchildren. She was predeceased by her grandmother, Rhoda Hardy. Visitation will be held from 7-9pm Wednesday, December 16 with a funeral service at 1pm on Thursday, December 17, Father Michael Walsh officiating both in Atlantic Funeral Homes, 771 Main Street, Dartmouth. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com](http://www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com) (Dartmouth Chapel)



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# McGregor ends Aldo's reign in seconds

UFC

## Irishman backs up bravado by taking belt with first-round KO

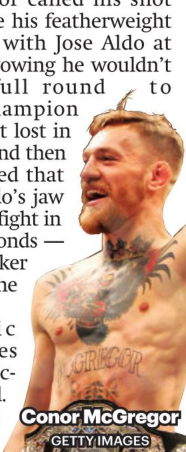
Gab is just one of Conor McGregor's many gifts.

The Irish star possesses a punching power that has made him an undisputed world champion in just seven UFC fights. McGregor also has an uncanny ability to predict not only the outcome of a fight, but the manner in which he'll accomplish his next feat of pugilistic prowess.

McGregor called his shot well before his featherweight title bout with Jose Aldo at UFC 194, vowing he wouldn't need a full round to stop a champion who hadn't lost in 10 years. And then he delivered that shot to Aldo's jaw to end the fight in just 13 seconds — a little quicker than even he expected.

"Mystic Mac strikes again," McGregor said.

For as



Conor McGregor  
GETTY IMAGES

much as McGregor talks, he was sure to get some predictions right. Yet when asked to foresee his own future after he ended Aldo's 18-fight winning streak, McGregor wasn't quite ready.

"I'll give it some time," McGregor said Saturday night.

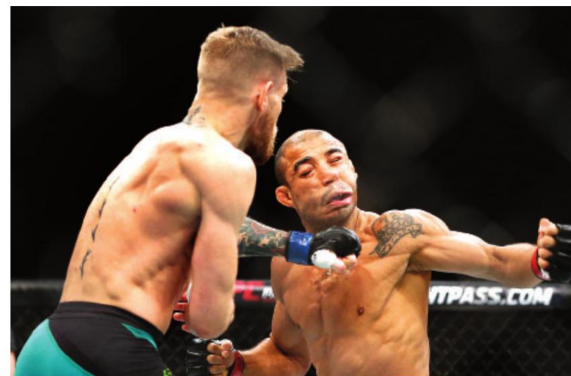
Indeed, McGregor reigns atop the featherweight division and the sport after a remarkable 2015. He won three fights, made untold millions and raised his fame near the heights

reached by Ronda Rousey, who will be featured alongside him on the cover of EA Sports' new UFC video game.

"I think I am the pound-for-pound No. 1," McGregor said. And McGregor predicts next year will be even bigger. The Dublin native's next fight will be a title bout at either featherweight or lightweight. McGregor's coach, John Kavanagh, has said the weight cut to the 145-pound featherweight limit is becoming too tough on the burly fighter.

He also vowed that he won't give up his 145-pound belt, instead planning to become a two-division champion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Conor McGregor delivers the knockout punch to Jose Aldo just 13 seconds into the first round on Saturday night in Las Vegas. JOHN LOCHER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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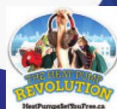
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## RECIPE Spicy Beef Tacos



PHOTO: MAMA VISNTEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

These easy tacos get a zing of heat from chili but a warmth from cumin and cinnamon.

### Ready in

Prep time: 30 minutes

### Serves 4

### Ingredients

- 1 large sweet potato, diced into bite-size pieces
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp salt, divided
- 1 lb organic lean ground beef
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup shaved Monterey Jack cheese
- A handful of chopped fresh cilantro
- Salsa

- 8 corn tortillas, warmed according to package directions

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. In a bowl, toss sweet potato with olive oil and 1/2 tsp salt. Spread sweet potato pieces out in a single layer on a lined baking sheet. Bake in the oven for 5 to 7 minutes. Toss and then bake another 3 to 5 minutes, or until fork tender. Remove potatoes from oven and place in a bowl.
3. In a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat until browned, about 10 minutes.
4. In a small bowl, blend chili powder, cumin, cinnamon and dried oregano. Stir into the meat the garlic, spice blend, pepper and remaining salt; cook for another 2 minutes. Remove beef from heat and transfer to serving dish.
5. Place beef, sweet potato, slices of red onion, cheese, fresh cilantro, salsa and tortillas out on the table for taco assembly. Enjoy.

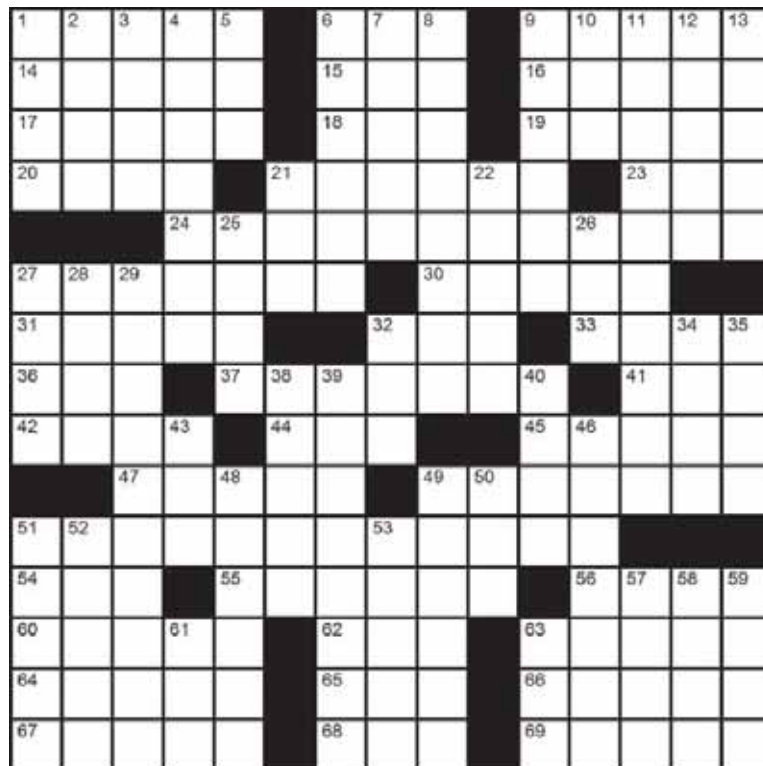
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32. " \_\_ recall..."
33. Stroller, to a Brit
36. Neither's partner
37. Appetizer served with plum sauce: 2 wds.
41. Pasta names suffix
42. 'Within'-meaning prefix
44. Swiss peak
55. Of bears
56. 'Demo' suffix (Politician sort)
60. Get \_\_ (Score in hockey)
62. "How was \_\_ know?"



- into their e-mail accounts: 2 wds.
54. Bit of food
55. Of bears
56. 'Demo' suffix (Politician sort)
60. Get \_\_ (Score in hockey)
62. "How was \_\_ know?"

63. The Congo's former name
64. "Irma la \_\_" (1963)
65. Grandma
66. Stick on
67. Fashion show walk
68. Unit of work
69. Bug: 2 wds.

### DOWN

1. Shades
2. \_\_ Domini (AD)
3. "Thank You" singer
4. Sheet that when painted over reveals a design beneath
5. Bill's bogus buddy

6. Influential effect
7. Shower sealant
8. Starbucks serving
9. Surname of one of Neil Young's bandmates
10. Purpose
11. Cutlery user's slip of the tongue?

12. Just-got-the-job person
13. 'Trick' suffixes
21. Get the glory
22. Up to a certain time
25. Fit, fiddle-style
26. "Superman's Dead" rock gr. from Toronto
27. Stand-up comedian Mr. Cook
28. Collar type
29. Archaeology in New Brunswick... Historic trading post in Saint John: 2 wds.
32. Dadaist Jean
34. Kind of buffalo
35. Duluth's state, for short
38. Nintendo enthusiast
39. Translucent envelope material for storing stamps
40. Tardy
43. Previous
46. Instant coffee brand
48. Protector-from-harm charm
49. Family-owned New Brunswick chocolatier since 1873
50. Bronze \_\_
51. Map's lines, often
52. Grain fungus
53. Ravi Shankar's instrument
57. Fissure
58. Opera offering
59. Communicate, techie-style
61. Prefix with 'puncture'
63. 'Zig' add-on

## ★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
Watch your back and think twice before giving anyone the benefit of the doubt. The Sun may be moving through your fellow Fire sign of Sagittarius but so is Saturn, planet of limitation, and that means someone may be working against you.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
You may not want to but it's time to give up on a goal that requires the kind of cash you no longer have. Let it go and next time aim for something cheaper.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
You will get conflicting advice but you know what must be done, so do it. Trust your instincts and hope for the best. The best will happen.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
You may be tempted to call the bluff of those you are negotiating with and hold out for a better offer but the planets warn that is not a good idea. You would be wise to seal the deal on the terms being offered.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Your confidence could slump as Saturn makes it easy to see nothing but grey skies. Your problems may be all in the mind but if you believe bad things are going to happen then they most likely will.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
Someone is refusing to see sense. You tried to point them in the right direction, so if they make a mess of things it's their own fault.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
Some people may say that you're losing your edge, that you are not as decisive and dynamic as you used to be, but it isn't true. Even a Libra is entitled to relax once in a while.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
Try not to appear too eager today. If you can give others, especially rivals, the impression that you don't care whether you win or lose you'll lull them into a false sense of security.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
You can't change past failures, so there is no point in dwelling on them. However, while the Sun is in your sign you can have a few successes, so stop being negative and start doing things that get you noticed.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Something is bothering you and your rivals and enemies are beginning to pick up on your fear. Don't worry about whether you are moving in the right direction because all roads lead to the same destination.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
If you try to live up to other people's image of you then you are likely to exhaust yourself for no good reason. Your health should be your main concern.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
If someone in a position of authority asks you to do something of a questionable nature today you must turn them down flat. Principle comes before power.

### CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

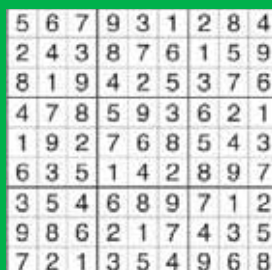
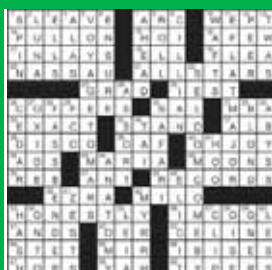


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